



Wolstanton High School

A Shaw Education Trust Academy



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Dear Parents and Guardians

Wolstanton High School wishes you and your family best wishes for the festive holidays. Here at Wolstanton High School we hold the safety, health, well-being and welfare of its students as paramount.

We are committed to safeguarding and work together to ensure that our students thrive in a safe and supportive environment, whatever their age, ethnicity, religion, disability, sexual identity or gender. A series of Assemblies this year have been delivered to raise awareness about Equality and Diversity, Child Sexual Exploitation, Self -Harm, Cyberbullying and general Internet security. We realise that social media is an increasingly powerful phenomenon and are working together with Staffordshire Police to ensure children know how to stay safe in and out of school, in real time and in cyberspace. Please spend some time discussing these issues with your children, asking about their privacy settings on apps like Facebook, Snapchat and Instagram.

All staff in the School are trained in Safeguarding and Child Protection issues and are kept up to date with changes in legislation and practice. We take any allegation and suspicion of abuse seriously and will respond to them promptly. A new online reporting portal called MyConcern is proving highly effective in tackling Safeguarding concerns raised by staff and ensuring youngsters, and sometimes their families are given access to support networks to improve wellbeing and welfare. This aspect of school life was recently deemed to be secure in a review of Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare undertaken by the Shaw Education Trust.

Students themselves have a pivotal role to play in securing a school environment with a supportive, inclusive and tolerant feeling. We pride ourselves that this is thriving in Wolstanton, evidenced by 50 Year 9 students volunteering to join a team of Buddies who will be helping us to stamp out bullying in all its various forms. We are hoping to become Stonewall Champions in 2017, recognising the work we are doing to raise awareness about homophobic, transphobic and biphobic bullying.

For more information about these issues and a closer look at our school Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy please follow the link to our school website:

<http://www.wolstantonhigh.org.uk/index.php?page=safeguarding-statement>

Set changes

There will be some set changes in the Spring Term in Years 7, 8, 9 &10 based on the progress pupils have made in the autumn term. Parents will be informed by letter if their child will be moving sets.

Year 11 Trial exams

Year 11s have just finished two weeks of trial exams and are nervously waiting for their results after the holidays. Please find below details of the after-school classes available for y11 pupils to support them in their preparation for the GCSE exams starting in May.

A copy of the 2017 GCSE exam timetable can be found on the school website together with a parents' guide on how to support pupils with their revision.

	Week A	Week B
Monday		
Tuesday	Science	ICT / RE / Design and technology History
Wednesday	Maths	Geog / D&T / ICT/ French/Art/ Photography/ Spanish
Thursday	English	Geog / L&T / French /RE/ ICT / Spanish
Friday	Art / Photography/RE	Art/Photography/RE

KS3 Graduation Ceremony

We are very excited to hold our first KS3 Graduation Ceremony next summer. We are working in collaboration with our sponsors the Shaw Education Trust to ensure that this is a memorable occasion for our Y9 pupils. There will be a Graduation Ceremony in the main hall on Friday afternoon on the 7th July for all Y9 pupils who graduate as well as a disco in the evening for the pupils. The Shaw Education Trust will also be inviting the pupils with their parents to a special event to celebrate the success of our students who have made the most progress across years 7-9.

Behaviour

We have been working hard as a community to work towards the highest standards of behaviour. Exclusions and detentions have dropped; merits and rewards trips are up. We have enclosed a two-sided visual aid of rewards and sanctions that will hopefully clarify the systems.

Academy Council – Parent Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a Parent Academy Council Member, further information and a nomination form are attached to this letter with a copy on the school website. We are looking for a parent with expertise in financial management to join our Resources Committee.

Final day arrangements

Final day will be Christmas jumpers and hats with uniform with a £1.00 donation to Save the Children. Form parties 12.10pm – 1.10pm, please bring something to contribute towards the party. Pupils who are entitled to free school meals will be able to pick up their lunch from the café at 1-10 pm. Home time for pupils will be 1.10pm.

First day back 2017

Wednesday January 4th normal time.

Thank you and goodbye

We say goodbye and thank you to;
 Mr Allen - Science
 Mrs Rutter - Foreign Languages
 Mrs Brady - Data Officer

Please remember to look at the weekly pupil bulletin on the website for a flavour of the celebration and successes for our pupils throughout each term.

Happy holiday

Tessa Thomas

Mrs Thomas and all at Wolstanton High School